DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 076 871 AC 014 383

TITLE NewGate Model.
INSTITUTION National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Hackensack, N.J. NewGate Resource Center.
NOTE 10p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS *Administrator Guides; Adult Counseling; *Adult Education Programs; *Correctional Education; Correctional Rehabilitation; Corrective Institutions; *Higher Education; Prisoners; Program Guides; Program Planning

ABSTRACT

A guide is provided for establishing a college-level education program for inmates of correctional institutions based on the NewGate concept. Necessary first steps are evaluation of current facilities, selection of the sponsoring agency, and selection of the student body. Guidelines for student selection deal with application procedure, record search, sentence, testing, academic requirements, selection committees, and contractual agreement. Guidelines for the program within the prison concern academic offerings, student organization, NewGate educational facilities, academic standards, stipends, therapy/counseling, and pre-release screening. Guidelines for the program outside the prison deal with an education release facility (student release), an education release facility (parole and discharge), therapy/counseling, big brother program concept, academic and financial planning, financial aid, employment services, and standards for retention. (KM)

FILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

ED 076871

NewGate Model

National Council
on Crime and Delinquency
NewGate Resource Center
411 Hackensack Avenue
Hackensack, N. J. 07601 - (201) 488-0400

AC014383

INTRODUCTION

Description: This document has been formulated to assist those who may be considering the establishment of a program embracing the concepts of NewGate. The information contained herein is offered only as a set of guidelines. Anticipating that many questions may arise as a specific plan is developed and implemented, the NewGate Resource Center staff stands ready to offer their assistance as well as the resources of NCCD and, when available, the assistance of present NewGate directors. We hope that you will not hesitate to utilize the services available to you.

Self Evaluation: If the needs of the students, the correctional institutions and the institutions of higher education are to be realistically met, planners will need first to evaluate current counseling and education programs and facilities. The availability of other support services (such as library facilities) should also be explored. A determination must be made as to the ability of the correctional institution's secondary education program to provide the NewGate program with a sufficient number of students who are ready and able to undertake college level work.

Sponsorship: The host agency for a NewGate program is usually the key to the program's success. Sponsors may be a correctional institution or department of corrections, a college or university, or an independent agency. When considering the advantages that each may offer, sponsorship of the program by a college or university clearly deserves preference. An institution of higher education functioning as a partner in the offender's reintegration process multiplies the manpower and influence which may be utilized in the undertaking. Moreover, it provides a necessary community advocate of the highest stature.

Student Body: The selection of inmates that make up the program population should be undertaken without bias toward offense, sex, age, race, religion or adjustment pattern. If the state correctional system is larger than a single institution, the NewGate population, wherever possible, should be reflective of the entire system.

STUDENT SELECTION

Application Procedure: Two avenues of application to the NewGate program should be available to an inmate: (1) the inmate himself may apply directly to the NewGate staff or (2) the inmate may be recommended by one of the institution staff, or a committee set up to process this type of recommendation. Inmates should not be arbitrarily assigned to the NewGate program.

Record Search: A search of inmate records should be made for each prospective NewGate student. If the search reveals a warrant or detainer which will make it virtually impossible for the inmate to complete the entire NewGate program, acceptance into the program should be deferred until the warrant or detainer is dropped.

Sentence: A major program consideration is the amount of time remaining prior to completion of an inmate's sentence. The student should have a minimum of one school term or semester in the institutional portion of the program, or a maximum of two years, prior to his release or parole eligibility. This will provide an adequate opportunity for him to adjust to the academic and counseling programs before he takes part in the outside portion of the project. In most cases it is difficult for a student to maintain a high degree of motivation beyond a two-year period. The limited number and lack of variety of the courses offered inside the prison have frequently been a rationale for not involving inmates who have long term release dates.

Testing: Testing for minimum scholastic requirements remains the most realistic measure by which to determine a candidate's overall qualifications. While there exist a great variety of tests from which to make the selection, the choice should be made in accordance with the purpose of evaluating the intelligence, achievement level, and personality characteristics of the applicant. Test scores, test setting, and choice of instruments used must all be carefully considered when the test results are evaluated. A review of an inmate's records and files may reveal that some testing had previously been undertaken. Those results should be reviewed. In cases where tests were administered immediately upon an inmate's entry into an institution, the circumstances may render the results invalid.

Academic Requirements: Minimum scholastic requirements should be reflective of those of the university or college with which the correctional institution is affiliated. If the educational institution requires a high school diploma or its equivalent as a criterion for admission, NewGate should adhere to this requirement in the selection process. However, tentative acceptance of a suitable candidate may be necessary one term or semester prior to his meeting all university requirements. Further acceptance would be conditional upon the student's receipt of his G.E.D. Students should not be selected for the program who do not or will not meet the college requirements for admission.

Selection Committees: The correctional institution will ultimately maintain control over the selection process. However, a selection committee consisting of representatives of the NewGate program, educational host, and the treatment and custodial staffs of the correctional institution should be established for the purpose of screening applicants. (Once a NewGate program

has been established and is ongoing, NewGate staff and students may desire to undertake a preliminary screening process.) The number of student candidates chosen by the selection committee should exceed the number of vacancies existing within the NewGate program by twenty to forty per cent, whenever possible. The selection of additional candidates will allow the institution's classification committee to screen applicants more closely. Approved candidates who are placed on the alternate list should be given priority the following term.

Contractual Agreement: The final step in the process of selection should be the student acceptance of the total program. The candidate should be given a full explanation of the entire program and of his responsibilities to it. Only upon the student's agreement to take part in all aspects of the program should he be accepted into the program. In turn, the NewGate staff must commit itself to faithfully discharging all of its duties and responsibilities to the student.

INSIDE PROGRAM

Academic Offerings: The academic program within the prison should be designed primarily to accommodate freshman and sophomore courses. This will permit the students from the inside program to transfer all of their credits to the outside program regardless of future educational goals. Although the interest level of upper division course work is usually higher, courses of this nature are best taken in the outside classroom in concert with other students who are planning a profession in the same field.

Student Organization: It is advisable to encourage the development of a NewGate student organization within the prison. Such an organization assists the new student in immediately identifying with the program while giving him a sense of greater involvement and comfort. The student organization also pro-

vides an acceptable vehicle by which participants can express ideas about the NewGate program. It is critical that staff maintain ongoing communication with the student body.

NewGate Educational Facilities: A library is necessary for realistic educational achievement: in most cases it may double as a quiet area for study periods. Normal library rules should apply. Classrooms should be utilized whenever possible: the setting should be as reflective of normal facilities found on a college campus. Effective utilization of space should be balanced between practical scheduling and making classrooms available for the concerted effort of students working on special projects. Some consideration should be given to providing NewGate students with a separate living area within the institution that is conducive to studying. This will be determined by the conditions and attitudes which prevail in the institution.

Academic Standards: The curriculum should be selected with the objective of effecting a relatively smooth transition from the inside program to the outside program. While taking part in the inside program, a student must maintain a grade point average acceptable to the college or university where he is enrolled. In cases where a student's grade point average falls below a level acceptable to the sponsoring college, every effort should be made to establish the cause of the difficulty before the student is dropped from the program. Very often, tutoring or counseling can be instrumental in correcting a temporarily negative situation.

Stipends: Most correctional institutions provide at least a minimal remuneration for inmates who work. This consideration should be extended to the NewGate students. An inmate who has been working on a paying job may feel that it would constitute a financial hardship to leave such a job to partici-

pate in NewGate, regardless of the potential long-range benefits if a stipend is not provided. The stipend should be adequate to supply the student's basic necessities and allow him to maintain a positive frame of mind.

Therapy/Counseling Component: The therapeutic program selected may be based on individual or group counseling, or a combination of both. The ultimate goal of this endeavor is the enhancement of the self-concept of the individual and the development of his capacity to function effectively and independently. It is essential that the student have a person or persons whom he can trust and to whom he can relate honestly. Since every NewGate student impacts upon the total program, therapeutic involvement of the student should be made a mandatory component of the inside program. This would allow the NewGate staff to establish further rapport and develop sensitivity to the overall adjustment of the student. If a student fails to participate, he has broken his contract and should be considered for dismissal.

Pre-release Screening: The success of a NewGate student will often depend on the thoroughness and discretion exercised by pre-release screening committees. The screening committee should review a student's progress and make recommendations affecting his movement into the outside program. The student's psychological and emotional progress, as well as his academic accomplishments, should play an important part in determining his readiness for release. The premature release of a student could be disastrous to the student as well as to the program.

OUTSIDE PROGRAM

Education Release Facility (Student Release): Whenever or wherever possible, an education release facility should be provided for students on study release. In a NewGate program, the value of a release facility cannot be overstated. The problems of making a successful transition from a penal institu-

tion to a more normal life can be eased considerably by this kind of support. Supervision at the residence will assist students and protect the program. Working relationships should be developed with appropriate police departments. Their understanding and cooperation could prove vital. In selecting the location, one should consider campus proximity and the attitudes of the residents in the immediate area.

Education Release Facility (Parole & Discharge): The halfway house is considered as valuable a stepping stone for the inmate moving from the institution to parole, as it is for the inmate moving to study release. It may be advisable for the NewGate staff to allow students on parole, or those who have been discharged, to use the facility pending their securing suitable housing. However, the same rules which govern the student on study release should apply to the paroled or discharged student during his temporary stay at the facility.

Therapy/Counseling Component: Regardless of where the NewGate student may reside after he has moved to the outside program, it is vital that access to counselors continue to exist. This may be accomplished through the use of existing NewGate staff, community programs, college counseling services, qualified volunteer resources, or a host of other agencies. However, if actual NewGate staff is not used, persons selected to provide the counseling service must understand their roles as helpful and supportive team members.

Big Brother Program Concept: An exploration may be undertaken to determine the feasibility of a big brother type of arrangement. Former NewGate students, current NewGate students, and/or students not partaking in NewGate should participate as sponsors or guides for the new students. NewGate staff should make efforts to lighten the physical and emotional burdens placed on newly released students.

Academic and Financial Planning: The NewGate staff is responsible for taking an active role in assisting each student in the selection of an educational program that is suitable to him. It is essential to ensure that the financing of such a program is feasible. A realistic appraisal must continually be made of the student's scholastic standing as well as his changing financial status. By the assignment of a NewGate staff member to work closely with the university's financial assistance office, the vocational rehabilitation agency, the veterans office, and other related agencies, the NewGate student should have resources available that will enable him to direct his full attention toward his academic endeavors.

Financial Aid: If the evaluation of a student's financial situation indicates that he is not capable of self-support, the NewGate program should assume an active role in assisting him to obtain financial aid. A formula may be developed whereby such assistance would decrease each term or semester during the first academic year on campus (for example: full support the first term, two-thirds support the second term, one-third support the third term, and no NewGate support is provided thereafter). However, NewGate should assist the student in locating other sources of financial aid. The loss of financial assistance may cause some students to decrease their academic load in order to maintain employment. This should not be interpreted as a breach of contract.

Employment Services: The availability and importance of employment counseling and placement services should be emphasized early in the program. Although they are utilized primarily in the final stages of the outside program, the existence of these services is necessary throughout. Since long-range planning is necessary, time must be allocated to influence the attitudes of potential employers and to seek the aid of supportive businesses and corpor-

ations. In view of NewGate's commitment to its students, a NewGate staff person should be assigned the work of liaison with the state employment office, civil service board, and other public a private agencies. Toward the conclusion of the student's college studies, NewGate should assist him in securing employment consistent with his goals.

Standards for Retention: NewGate's academic standards should always be reflective of those of the educational host institution. Although a student might achieve success while enrolled in a full-time academic program inside the institution, he may frequently encounter problems on campus which would call for an evaluation of his adjustment. Ultimately, however, if the student does not meet the university requirements, he should be dropped from the program.

CONCLUSION

This model is designed not to answer all the questions that arise, but to provide an outline for the planning and development of a program founded on the principles of NewGate. The purpose of the NCCD NewGate Resource Center is to provide assistance in the establishment and implementation of NewGate programs. We invite you to avail yourselves of the information in our data bank and of our services.

Other NewGate Publications Available From NCCD

NewGate Directory
NewGate•New Hope Through Education

ERIC Clearinghouse
JUN 13 1973
on Adult Education